



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER SERGIO JIMENEZ

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: AUGUST 12, 2020

APPROVED:

DATE: 8/13/20

SUBJECT: Retroactive Approval Of Muslim American Appreciation And Awareness Month Sponsored By Council District 2 As A City Council Sponsored Special Event To Expend City Funds And Expend City Funds And Accept Donations Of Materials And Services For The Event (Jimenez)

RECOMMENDATION

1. Retroactively approve Muslim American Appreciation and Awareness Month scheduled on August 19, 2020 as a City Council sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of funds;
2. Approve and accept donations from various individuals, businesses, or community groups to support the event;
3. Place the item on the August 25, 2020 Council Agenda for action.

BACKGROUND

Enriched by the unparalleled diversity of its residents, the City of San Jose takes great pride in supporting individual religious freedoms and is strengthened by the many varied religious, political, and cultural traditions and contributions of its diverse population, including those Americans who practice Islam.

Freedom of religion is a distinct cherished right and a fundamental value upon which the law and ethics of the United States are based.

In the Bay Area we have a thriving community of 250,000 Muslims and over 100 mosques and religious centers. In Santa Clara County there are over 67,000 Muslims who make innumerable contributions to the cultural, political, and economic fabric and well-being of California and the United States.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

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Some of the Muslim organizations in San Jose and the greater Bay Area are:

- The South Bay Islamic Association, which is one of the oldest Mosques in the Bay Area; and is a multi-cultural, community service, and religious organization that aims to provide Islamic services to the community.
- The Shia Association of the Bay Area (SABA) is the first established and largest Shia mosque in Northern California and provides religious and community services
- The Evergreen Islamic Center (EIC), Blossom Valley Muslim Community Center (BVMCC), Islamic Community of Bay Area Bosniaks, Masjid Al Rasool, and the South Bay Afghan Islamic Community Center (SBACC) all offer a place to worship, participate in community activities, and engage with the larger community for the common good
- The Hidayah Foundation has been serving the poor and needy in economically depressed areas of Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, West Africa, USA and Canada by providing food, clean drinking water, clothing, supplies, educational support, and medical assistance.
- The Islamic Networks Group (ING) pursues peace and counters all forms of bigotry through educational and interfaith engagement and has reached millions of individuals since its founding in 1993.

It is appropriate to acknowledge and promote awareness of the myriad of invaluable contributions of American Muslims in California and across the country, and extend to them the respect and camaraderie every American deserves.

American Muslims are teachers, lawyers, doctors, social workers, tech workers, nurses, and business owners among numerous other valued professions, as well as peace builders, activists, entrepreneurs, and politicians.